

Message Text

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SUBJ: KHARTOUM AFRO-ARAB SYMPOSIUM ON LIBERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

OPENED ON JANUARY 7, 1976 BY PRESIDENT NIMERI, THE KHARTOUM AFRO-ARAB SYMPOSIUM ON LIBERATION AND DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTED A MAJOR EFFORT BY THE GOS TO EMPHASIZE ITS ROLE IN PROMOTING AFRO-ARAB RELATIONSHIPS. THE SYMPOSIUM ATTRACTED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (CHIEFLY INFORMATION MINISTERS), ACADEMICIANS, AND INTELLECTUALS FROM 20 COUNTRIES AND TWELVE ORGANIZATIONS. DURING THE FIVE DAYS OF PAPERS AND DISCUSSIONS THE PARTICIPANTS HEARD MUCH ABOUT THE HISTORY OF AFRO-ARAB RELATIONS, THE IMPORTANCE OF JOINT ACTION IN ELIMINATING OLD AND NEW COLONIALISM AND RACISM, AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY AS APPLIED TO RUAL DEVELOPMENT, IN CONSOLIDATING NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. SPEAKERS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF JOINT INFORMATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN FURTHERING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN AFRICANS AND ARABS. THE FINAL DECLARATION RECOMMENDED THAT THE ARAB LEAGUE AND OAU SHOULD NOT ONLY IMPLEMENT THE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE KHARTOUM SYMPOSIUM BUT ALSO

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CALL FOR AN AFRO-ARAB CONFERENCE OF INFORMATION MINIS-

TERS TO INCREASE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION.
PREDICTABLY, THE CONFERENCE CONDEMNED OUTSIDE
INTERFERENCE IN ANGOLA AND OUTSIDE PRESSURES ON
AFRO-ARAB COUNTRIES TO INFLUENCE THEIR POLICIES AND
CALLED FOR AN END TO THE FIGHTING IN BEIRUT.
THE SYMPOSIUM PRODUCED NOTHING NEW. HOWEVER, EVEN
THOUGH ITS PARTICIPANTS ATTACKED THE USUAL TARGETS OF
SUCH MEETINGS, THE MAIN FOCUS WAS ON WHAT THE COUNTRIES
THEMSELVES MIGHT DO TO ACHIEVE SYMPOSIUM GOALS.
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